

Self-Guided Trails

Yosemite Valley

Ask at any entrance station or visitor information desk for specific directions to self-guided trails in Yosemite Valley.

Tuolumne Meadows Area

Soda Springs

Walk the trail to Soda Springs along the edge of the largest subalpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada and read about the cultural and natural history of this beautiful area. The self-guided trail provides an excellent background for discussions on glacial geology, forest meadow succession, riparian habitat, and the making of a national park. John Muir sat with Robert Underwood Johnson near Soda Springs and discussed the necessity of federal protection for the high country of Tuolumne. The trail starts as a gravel road at the Lembert Dome parking area in Tuolumne Meadows and continues past the locked gate to Soda Springs.



Wawona: Pioneer Yosemite History Center

The spirit of Yosemite's past lingers among six historic buildings that chronicle the life and times of those involved in the development of a national park. A brochure, The Pioneer History Center, is available next to the covered bridge. Interpretive signs near each of the buildings correspond to the brochure. The history center is just off the highway in Wawona.

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

Giant sequoias are among the oldest and largest living things on earth. A self-guided trail with interpretive signs and accompanying brochure takes you into the heart of this beautiful grove. During the winter, access by vehicle can be limited, but a 2-mile hike or snowshoe trip will bring you into the grove. A brochure is available at the trailhead. The Mariposa Grove is a 1¼ hour drive from Yosemite Valley.